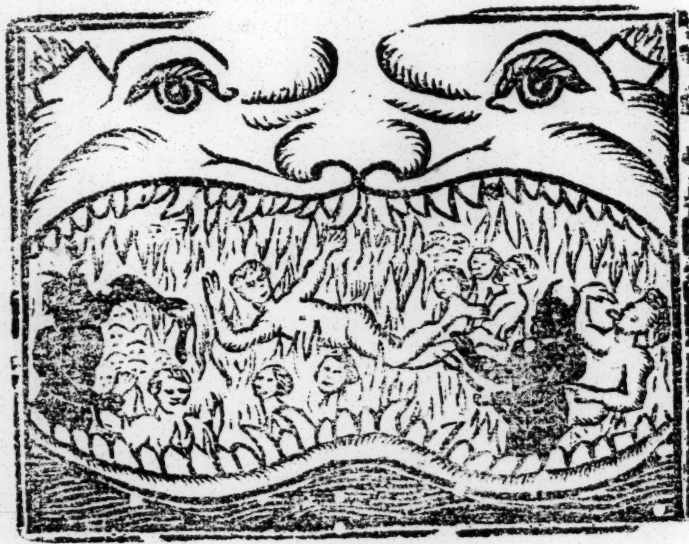


# The Dead Man's Song

Whose Dwelling was near Basing-Hall, in London.  
Tune is, *Flying Fame.*



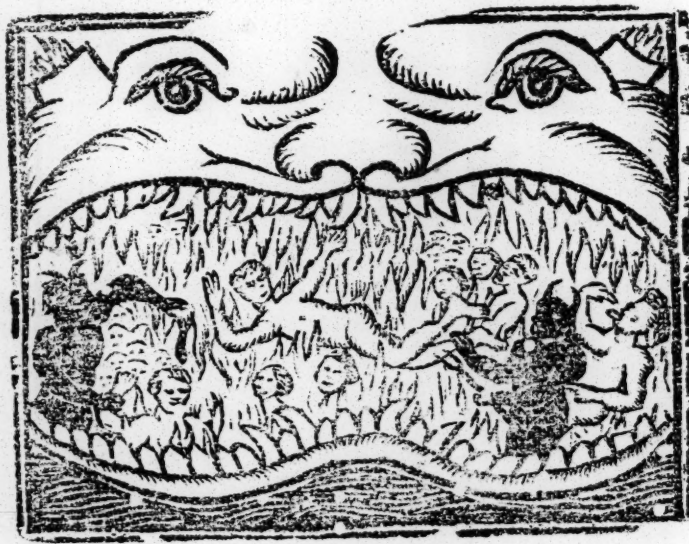
S Oe sick dear friends long time I was  
and weakly laid in bed,  
And for five hours in all mens sight  
at length I lay as dead:  
The Bell rung out my friends came in,  
and I kee cold was found,  
Then was my carcase brought from bed,  
and laid upon the Ground.  
My loving Wife did weep full sore,  
my Children loud did cry,  
My friends did mourn. yet this they said,  
all flesh is born to dye.  
My winding-sheet prepared was,  
my Grave was also made,  
And for five hours in all mens sight,  
in this same case I laid,  
During which time my soul did see,  
such strange and fearful sights,  
That for to hear the same disclos'd,  
would banish all delights:  
Yet with the Lord restor'd my Life,  
which from my body fled:  
I will declare the sights I saw,  
the time that I was dead.  
Methought upon a lovely green,  
where pleasant flowers sprung,  
I took my way, whereas I thought,  
the Muses sweetly sung;  
The grass was sweet, the trees was fair,  
and lovely to behold,  
And full of fruit was every twig,  
which shin'd like glittering gold.  
My cheerful heart desired much,  
to taste the fruit so fair,  
But as I reacht a fair young-man,  
to me did make repair.

Touch not, said he, 'tis none of thine,  
but tend and walk with me,  
And see thou mark each several thing,  
which I shall shew to thee.  
I wonderd greatly at his words,  
yet went with him alway,  
Till on a gallant goodly bank,  
with him he bid me stay:  
With branches then of Lillies white,  
mine eyes there wiped he,  
When this was done, he had me look  
what I far off could see.  
I looked up, and loe at last,  
I did a City see,  
So fair a thing did never man  
behold with mortal eye:  
Of diamonds, pearls and precious stones  
it seems the walls were made,  
The houses all with beaten gold,  
were til'd and overlaid.  
More brighter then the morning Sun,  
the light thereof did shew,  
And every creature in the same,  
like crowned Kings did go:  
The fields about the City fair,  
were all with Roses set,  
Gilliflowers and Carnations fair,  
whom canker could not fret.  
And from the fields there did proceed,  
a sweet and pleasant smell,  
That every living creature felt,  
the scent did so excel:  
Besides such sweet and pleasant mirth,  
did from the City sound,  
That I therewith was ravished,  
my joy did so abound.

With musick, mirth, and melody,  
Princes did there embrace;  
But in my heart I long'd to be  
within that blessed place;  
The more I gaz'd the more I might,  
the sight pleas'd me so well,  
For what I saw in every thing  
my tongue no way can tell.  
Then of the man I did demand,  
what place the same might be,  
Whereas so many Kings did dwell,  
in Joy and melody:  
Quoth he that blessed place is heaven,  
where yet thou canst not rest,  
And those that do like Princes go,  
are these whom God hath blest.  
Then did he turn me round about,  
and on the other side,  
He had me view and mark as much,  
what things were to be spy'd:  
With that I saw a cole-black Den  
all tan'd with soot and smok,  
Where stinking brimstone burning was,  
which made me like to choke.  
An ugly creature there I saw,  
whose face with knives was slant,  
And in a Cauldron of popson stith  
his ugly corps were washt,  
About his neck were sundry Ruffs  
that flam'd on every side,  
I askt, and loe the young-man said,  
that he was damn'd for pride.  
Another sort there did I see,  
whose bowels vipers toze,  
And grievously with gaping mouth,  
they did both yell and roare.

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Yet with the Lord restor'd my Life, More brighter then the morning Sun,  
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And grievously with gaping mouth,  
they did both yell and roar.





**A** Spotted person by each one,  
 Good gnawing on their hearts,  
 And this was Conscience I was told,  
 Which plagu'd their inward parts.

They were no sooner out of sight,  
 but freight came in their place,  
 A sort still throbbing burning fire,  
 which fell against their face:  
 And Ladles full of melted gold,  
 were poured down their throats,  
 And these were set it seem'd to me,  
 in midst of burning boats.

The foremost of the company  
 was Judas I was told,  
 who had for filthy Lucre's sake  
 his Lord and Master sold;  
 For covetousness he was condemn'd  
 so it was told to me,  
 And there methought another sort  
 of Hell-hounds I did see.

Their faces seemed fat in sight,  
 yet all their bones were bare,  
 And dishes full of crawling Toads,  
 were made their finest fare:

From arms, from hands, from thighs, and  
 with Red-hot pincers then, (feet, and  
 The flesh was pluckt even from the bone  
 of these vile gluttonous men.

On cole-black beds another sort,  
 in grievous sort did lye,  
 And underneath them burning brands;  
 their flesh did burn and cry:

With brimstone fierce their pillows like  
 whereon their heads were laid,  
 And fiends with glowing whips of fire,  
 their Lecherous flesh off laid.

Then did I see another come,  
 stab'd in with Daggers thick,

And filthy fiends with fiery darts,  
 their hearts did wound and prick:  
 And mighty holes of corrupt blood,  
 was brought for them to drink,  
 And these men were for murder plagu'd,  
 from which they could not shrink.

I saw when they were gone away,  
 the Swearer and the Liar,  
 And they were hung up by the tongue,  
 over a flaming fire.

From eyes, from ears, from navel, & nose  
 and from their lower parts,  
 The blood methought did gushing run,  
 and clogged like mens hearts,

I asked why that punishment  
 was now on Swearers laid,  
 Because, quoth he, wounds, heart, and blood  
 were all the Baths they made:

And therewithal from ugly hell,  
 such Grievous cries I heard,  
 As though some greater Chief and sage  
 had vext them afterward.

So that my soul was sore afraid;  
 such terror on me fell,

Alway then went this young-man quills;  
 and bad me not farewell:

Wherefore unto my body straight,  
 my spirit Return'd again,  
 And lively blood did afterwards  
 stretch forth in every vein.

My closed eyes I opened,  
 and raised from my swoond;  
 so laid upon the Ground:

Which when my Neighbors did behold,  
 great fear upon them fell,

To whom soon after I did tell,  
 the news from Heaven and Hell.